

Democrats Do More for Homeland Security

- ***Democrats Provide More for Homeland Security*** — The Democratic budget adds back the Republican budget's cuts to the President's homeland security request, and also provides \$5 billion more than the President's budget over the next five years for homeland security.
- ***Republican Budget Cuts Homeland Security Below the President's Request*** — The Republican budget cuts homeland security funding by \$857 million below the President's request for 2005-2009, applying the cut to all homeland security activities outside of the Department of Defense. At a time when our nation continues to face threats to homeland security, the Congress should not redirect resources from homeland security to tax cuts.
- ***Republican Budget Includes President's Cuts to Port Security Grants*** — In cutting homeland security funding below the President's request, the Republican budget provides no additional funds to address the President's cuts for port security grants. The President's budget cuts port security grants by \$79 million (63.2 percent) below the \$125 million enacted for 2004. Port security grants from the Department of Homeland Security provide funds for port agencies to install the fencing, surveillance technologies, and other measures needed to prevent terrorists from gaining access to docks and other port facilities. The Coast Guard asserts that \$4.4 billion over ten years is needed for port security.
- ***Republican Budget Includes President's Cuts to First Responders*** — By cutting homeland security funding below the President's request, the Republican budget provides no additional funds to address the President's cuts in first responders funding. The President's budget cuts funding for first responders at the Department of Homeland Security by \$648 million (14.7 percent) below the amount enacted for 2004. Within that cut, firefighter assistance grants are cut by \$246 million (33.0 percent) below the 2004 enacted level. Since September 11, reports such as the Council on Foreign Relations report on first responders have emphasized the need for increased funding for first responders, not decreases.
- ***Budget Is Latest Democratic Effort to Add Funding for Homeland Security*** — During Budget Committee mark-up of the budget resolution, Republicans defeated on a party-line vote a Democratic amendment that would have added funding to strengthen homeland security elements including port security, first responders, and aviation and border security.